

A+ Essentials: A Set of Commitments

<p>Arts</p> <p>In A+ Schools the arts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * taught daily *inclusive of drama, dance, music, visual art and writing *integrated *valued as essential to learning *included in planning *practiced *a part of personal experience 	<p>Curriculum</p> <p>In A+ Schools curriculum is addressed through the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *mapping that reflects alignment *thematic webbing *development of essential questions *creation and use of interdisciplinary thematic units *cross-curricular integration 	<p>Experiential Learning</p> <p>In A+ Schools experiential learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *is grounded in arts-based instruction *is a creative process *acknowledges entry points *includes differentiated instruction *provides multi-faceted assessment opportunities 	<p>Multiple Intelligences</p> <p>In A+ Schools multiple learning pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *used within planning & assessment *understood by students and parents *studied, and new research is explored by teachers *creating balanced learning opportunities
<p>Enriched Assessment</p> <p>In A+ Schools enriched assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *is on-going *is designed for learning *is used as documentation *is a reflective practice *helps meet school system requirements *is used to self-assess by teachers and students 	<p>Collaboration</p> <p>In A+ Schools collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *is intentional *occurs within & outside of school *occurs during planning time: classroom teachers with arts teachers *occurs with teachers, students, families, the community, & local businesses *includes broad-based leadership 	<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>In A+ Schools infrastructure supports the philosophy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *addressing logistics such as schedules that support planning time *providing appropriate space for the arts *continually developing faculty commitment *creating a shared vision *providing related professional development *continual team building 	<p>Climate</p> <p>In A+ Schools climate improves because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *teachers can manage the arts in their classrooms *stress is reduced *teachers are treated as professionals *morale improves *excitement about the program grows *A+ whole school reform is invigorating